

ACRY 446

AGAINST

16. 179

Oppression & Cruelty:

BEING

A short account of the Tryal, and of the Sentence that was passed on several innocent people called *Quakers*, who are Inhabitants of the City of *Worcester*.

At the Affizes holden there the 16, 17, and 18th days of the 5th Month called *July*, who were imprisoned because they refused to swear in obedience to the commandment of Christ Jesus, &c.

And for assembling themselves together peaceably in the Name and fear of the Lord, to worship him in Spirit and Truth, according to his Will.

And when they bring you unto the Synagogues, and unto Magistrates and Powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say, for the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say, Luke 12, 11, 12.

The wicked delighteth in mischief, but the followers of Truth abhorreth their ways, &c.

LONDON,

Printed, and are to be sold by *William VVarwick*, 1663.

Oppression & Cruelty:

BEING

A short account of the Trial, and of the Sentence that was passed on several innocent people called Quakers, who are Inhabitants of the City of Worcester.

At the Assizes holden there the 16, 17, and 18 day of the 5th Month called May, who were imprisoned because they refused to swear in obedience to the commandment of Christ Jesus, &c.

And for assembling themselves together peaceably in the Name and fear of the Lord, to worship him in spirit and Truth, according to his Will.

And when they bring you unto the Synagogue, and unto the Magistrates, and to the King, say ye thus: We thank thee, O King, for the things which thou hast done unto us: for we know that thou art a just King, and that thou art not partial to any man.

And when they bring you unto the Synagogue, and unto the Magistrates, and to the King, say ye thus: We thank thee, O King, for the things which thou hast done unto us: for we know that thou art a just King, and that thou art not partial to any man.

TO WADON,

Printed, and are to be sold by William T. 1667.

to look others welfare as their own, and to do as they would be done by; though they may call themselves Christians, yet

they are not, for they are not willing to be so, and therefore they are not Christians.

we give for what we have received, but this is not the way to be so, and therefore they are not Christians.

I Cry against Oppression and Cruelty, &c.

are Christians indeed, do, and are made partakers of Gods name. But it may be questioned, What is the reason

IF we should altogether hold our peace, and not publish to the World what hard measure we have received from some who are in Authority, wholly, and without any just occasion given unto them, as on our parts; yet doubtless the righteous God who sees and beholds all the actions of men, and will justly recompence for the time, will in his own time clear our innocency, and plead our cause; for whose sake we suffer, our Consciences bearing us perfect witnesses therunto. Yet in regard of some who have been informed otherwise concerning the cause of our sufferings, then indeed it is, as though we suffered in our own wills, and in contempt of Authority, and as though we were against all good Government, when the truth is much otherwise. Therefore to wipe off such aspersions, that such as have been misinformed concerning us, may understand the truth, and we declare in our own defence.

First, We are brought to deny our selves from following our own wills, that we might do the Will of God in every thing, who hath called us to follow peace and holiness with all men: And this we are taught to do by that Principle which God hath placed in us, and not only in us, but in all men, which is the Light which Christ hath enlightened every man withal, which lets them see their sin, and wherein they are short in what they ought to be. This is that which we say will lead even all people to do, as they would be done unto, and to seek others welfare as their own, which every Christian ought to do, and whosoever they be that are not in this mind, though they be called by the Name of Christians, yet not doing that which the Spirit of Christ leads unto, which is

to seek others welfare as their own, and to do as they would be done by; though they may call themselves Christians, yet indeed and really they cannot be said so to be. Many Reasons might we give for what we have affirmed, but this is sufficient. It is said in the Scripture, That so many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. And we say, Such as are Christians indeed, do, and are made partakers of Christ's nature. But it may be questioned, What is the Nature of Christ? Answer, Meekness and humility, and lowliness of spirit, agreeable to his own words, who said, *Learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, &c.*

That those who are the cause of our oppression for the exercise of our Conscience towards the Lord, even the righteous God of Heaven and Earth, because we fear him, and do labour to keep our Consciences void of offence towards him. We wish that they and all others whose day of Visitation is not quite past, would take diligent heed to the pure Light of Christ which shines in their hearts, and so come to learn Christ to be as he was, that their souls may enter into rest, that the Kingdom of God they may know in them, which consists in peace and joy in the Holy Ghost, &c. and this we do from our hearts desire on their behalf.

Another thing charged against us by some is, That we do what we do in contempt of Authority, &c.

Ans. God who knoweth our hearts, can bear us witness to the contrary, unto whom we do appeal, and to his faithful Witness in every mans Conscience, which will let them see that what we do, we do is not in contempt of Authority, but for Conscience sake towards God; and if men require that from us which God doth forbid to be done, whether it be not better in such a case to obey God rather than man? Let his faithful Witness in every mans Conscience give an answer.

Another thing charged against us by some is, That we are against all good Government, &c.

Ans. Unto which Charge we say, Nay, for we are for good Government, and all just Lawes and just Magistrates.

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growth, and in honor such as do rule for God, who are a terror to the evil doer, and a praise to them that do well; such beare not the Sword in vain, such answers the Witness of God in every mans Conscience, which is just. But such as do govern contrary to God's Witness in every mans conscience, doing that which is unjust and unequal in the sight of the Lord, who is just and whose way is equal, it is such as the Light doth reprove and condemn in their own Consciences; and such as these we cannot own, but must testify against. And if by such our sufferings be continued, we shall not rise up with carnal Weapons to seek our own deliverance, but patiently endure what may be further laid upon us for the Truth's sake, committing our Cause unto the Lord, in whom we trust, and do believe that he will in his own time deliver us by his holy Arm of Power, unto whom be praises, and dominion, and thanksgiving for his mercy and loving-kindness, who keepeth Covenant and mercy with all who trust in him from generation to generation for ever.

Concerning the manner of our Tryal, and of the sentence that was past on us afterwards.

Several of us being brought into the Court by the Judges Order the 16th day of the 5th Month called July, some of us were brought to the Bar; first, Thomas Ball was brought, unto whom the Judge spake as followeth.

Judge. Have you taken the Oath of Allegiance?

Th. Ball. Ans. Nay.

Judge. Will you take the Oath?

T. B. Nay, Christ hath commanded to the contrary, vyho said, Swear not at all.

Then William Pitt was brought to the Bar; the Judge spake to him, &c.

Judge. Upon what account were you at Robert Smith's House the 8th day of June?

W. P. Where are my Accusers?

Judge. Will you take the Oath?

W. P.

J. P. M. Let me be cleared of what I stand here charged for; they shall answer to this.

Next **Geronsie Pierson** was brought to the Bar; the Judge speaks to him, &c.

Judge. Will you take the Oath?

G. P. M. I never read nor heard of that Law, that by virtue thereof men might be kept five Weeks in Prison for a crime found against them.

Judge. Were not you at the Meeting?

G. P. M. I do not say I was there.

Judge. I do expect you to swear you did not.

G. P. M. Then let it be proved I was there.

Judge said, Call **Robert Smith** to the Bar. **Robert Smith** standing up, the Judge speaks to him as followeth.

Judge. Are you a Prisoner?

Robert Smith answered; About five or six Weeks ago, I with many others were by force of Military men taken Prisoners; and since so continued.

Judge. What is the reason you appear thus contemptuously before the Court with your Hat on?

R. S. My Hat is my own, and I came truly by him, and it is not in contempt I wear him.

Judge. By it you condemn the Authority and Laws of this Kingdom.

R. S. Where is that Law that forbiddeth a man to wear his own Hat? Instance it.

Judge. It is a custom in England to show their subjection to Authority by putting off their Hats.

R. S. It is a custom in England for men to wear, or to come before Courts with Coats or Cloaks, and I am here without either; and is not the one as much a contempt as the other?

Judge. Fine him five pounds, and record it, and now take off his Hat. Which the Gaoler did accordingly.

Judge. Did you ever take the Oath of Allegiance?

R. S. I have been Prisoner five or six Weeks, and I would know the cause of my imprisonment.

Judge. I meddle not with your Imprisonment; but here you are before

me? And here I find your oath and do it you the Oath of
 Will you take it or no? For each your danger which will fol-
 low you will incur Premunire, and forfeit your Estate to the King.

R. S. Who was that Law made for the Papists or us?

Judge. For both, as I am sure, in standing or doing against the Law.

R. S. Why then is it not tendered to them, as well as to us?

Judge. They have already taken it, and so you have.

R. S. Suppose I find some Papists, or Popishly affected, sitting
 on the Bench, shall it be tendered unto them?

Judge. They have done it already, and so you have.

R. S. Let us and the people see it, that we may be satisfied.

Judge. Will you take the Oath, or not? Otherwise we will record your
 refusal, and call you again to-morrow, & upon your second refusal record
 it also, and shall pass the sentence of Premunire upon you.

R. S. Shall the Example of Christ determine the controversy
 between us?

Judge. I cannot see how it can, unless you will say that Christ
 was a Lawgiver, and that his Law is the Law of the Land.

R. S. Must the Doctrine of the Law make void the Doctrine
 of Christ?

Judge. Will you answer speedily whether you will take the Oath, or no?

R. S. Love obligeth to Allegiance more than Oaths can do.

Judge. Then signify your Allegiance by an Oath.

R. S. That which obligeth me not to swear, obligeth me to
 swear no man.

Judge. Take him away.

R. S. Friends, The things that are required at our hands, is,
 to do that which to us are the Lords Truths; the one is, Not
 to stand at all the other is, The assembling our selves together.
 Rather than so to do, I am not here onely ready to suffer, but
 also to seal those Truths with my blood, if thereunto re-
 quired.

Judge said, God forbid I should seek your blood.

Then we were returned back again to prison, till the next
 day, in the mean time several Bills of Indictment were drawn
 up against us; for we understood, that before some of us were
 called for to be brought into the Court, the Judge asked the
 Grand

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The Jury whether they had any Bill against the Quakers. Answer being made by them of the Grand Jury. They had nothing to give in against us. Then the Judge ordered some of us to be sent for, that they hearing our Answers to such Questions as he put forth to ensnare us, might from hence have an occasion to draw up some Bills against us. So the Judge put them in the way how to draw up Bills against us, whose directions they were ready to observe; though it tended to the ensnaring of the innocent. Several Bills being drawn up against us, one against Robert Smith in particular, and six more against the rest of us; whereof some were drawn up according to the common Law, which is French, which the Jury did not understand. This being done, we were all sent for to come into the Court.

We have not written these things out of hatred to those who are the cause of our present sufferings, but that the truth might appear, and that such who have not done justly towards us in these things, may for the time to come be careful, and repent of what they have done unjustly against us, and resolve never to do the like in time to come, lest they feel the Lords heavy displeasure, who is just, and whose Ways are Truth and Equity, and will render unto all men a reward according to their Works.

The 17th day of the Month we were all brought into the Court, being in number twenty four persons, being put together with the Felons, Robert Smith being called to the Bar, the Bill that was found against him was read, which was for refusing to swear. The Clerk of the Range spoke to him as follows.

Clark, Are you guilty or not guilty?

R. S. I have been detained a Prisoner, and not yet the Fact signified unto me, on my crime laid to my charge. Therefore clear me, or charge me for what I was first imprisoned, and then I may answer unto this charge.

Judge

...and then you shall be heard.

Jes. Smith. What the Scripture forbiddeth, the Law ought not to compel unto.

Judge. I will leave no discourse unto you about Scripture, or other matters, will you answer to the indictment or not?

Jes. Smith. Yesterday Christs example would not be permitting us to day no Scripture. It is time to be silent if truth and Scripture may not determine a matter.

Judge. Be speedy in your answer, for will you be permitted to swear the Oath or not?

Jes. Smith. True Law by which you are now provided for Justice shall bear to murder and betray the Government of the Land, and in that it was just, and how can it then reach me or them unto whom such a thing cannot be charged; and therefore the Law is so try such as are before mentioned.

Judge. If you will not answer, I must and shall proceed.

Jes. Smith. That Law which compels to that which Christ forbids is an unsound Law, but that Law which compels to swear, compels to that which Christ forbids, therefore an unsound Law.

Judge. Take him away.

Then *John Price*, *John Townsend*, *James Moor*, *Edward Linn*, *Susanna Pierson*, were brought to the Bar, two Bills of indictment being read, by which they were indicted, the one for holding all oaths to be unlawful, the other for meeting together in the house of *Robert Smith* by force of Arms and contempt of the Laws of the Land, &c. which indictments were filled up with many untruths.

John Price being called, the Clerk spake to him, &c.

John Price. There be many errors and falsities in the indictment; of which I am not guilty.

Then the Clerk spake to *John Townsend* with others of us, who answered after the same manner, which we forbear to mention, according to the questions and their answers for brevity sake.

Susanna Pierson was called.

Clerk. Are you guilty or not guilty?

Sus. Pierson. Whose Ox or whose Ass have I taken, or who have

have I defrauded? if I have taken ought from any man, I will restore him four-fold.

Judge. Answer, guilty, or not guilty?

Sus. Person. The indictment is false.

Judge. Answer, guilty, or not guilty? Answer to the indictment, and then you shall be suffered to plead, saying, I will do you no wrong.

Sus. Person. I desire you to look upon the Kings Proclamation, but the Judge denied, and caused me to be pulled down.

Now the Proclamation forbids any Soldiers on other to come into the houses of the Kings Subjects without sufficient warrant, or else to be looked upon as contempters of the Government, &c. which might have been of use to us, if we could have had Justice therefrom, for those that came to gill and restrain forth from our meetings would show us no warrant or order they had so to do.

Then Edward Bourn, George Knight, Tho. Jukes, Robert Taskins, John Clarke were brought to the Bar, two Bills of indictment being presented against them. The one for maintaining that all oaths are unlawful, &c. The other for meeting together at the house of Robert Smith, Towne, which Bills being drawn according to the form before expressed, by which the other friends were indicted.

Whereupon the Clerk of the Assigners spake to Edm. Bourn and the rest, as followeth.

Clerk. Are you guilty, or not guilty?

Edw. Bourn. I desire I may have liberty so speak.

Judge. You shall have liberty so much as you shall see need, as you will when you come to your tryal, but now you must answer whether you are guilty or not guilty.

When I would have spoke, I was interrupted, and not permitted.

Then the Clerk proceeded.

Clerk. E.B. what say you, are you guilty or not guilty?

Edw. Bourn. I am clear from many things which are charged in the indictments against me.

Clerk. Then you are not guilty.

Then the next was called, the indictment being read to him.

Clerk. Guilty, or not guilty?

Guilty

George Knight. That I was at *Rob. Smiths* was true, but that I was there at a tumultuous meeting, or to the ill example of the Kings Subjects, that I deny.

So the rest of us being questioned, after the reading of the indictments unto them: whether they were guilty or not, returned their answer to the same effect as we had done before them. We desired copies of our indictments, that we might the better give in our answers upon our further tryal, which the Judge promised we should; but when they were to be had, we could not have two copies of them, except we would give fourteen shilling for them, therefore we chose rather to make our defence without them, then to pay so dear for that which might have been writ upon one side of half a sheet of paper.

Then *Richard Fido*, *William Pitt*, *Tho. Ball*, *Abraham Roberts*, *Gervase Piereson*, *Ahza. Armes*, *Geoffery Rasmos*, and others were brought to the Bar; two Bills of indictments being read, which were preferred against them to the same effect as the other before mentioned, one of them bearing date *June 8*, being the day they were taken prisoners, &c.

Richard Fido was called.

Clerk. Are you guilty, or not guilty?

Rich. Fido. Not guilty of many things therein mentioned.

Then *William Pitt* was called.

Clerk. Are you guilty, or not guilty?

Will. Pitt. The question is very difficult, there being some things therein true, and many things false.

Clerk. Then that which is false you are not guilty of.

Then *Geoffery Rasmos* was called.

Clerk. Are you guilty or not guilty?

Geoffery Rasmos. I am an innocent man, where are mine accusers?

The rest of us being asked the same questions, returned answer to the same effect as the other had done before.

Then we were all returned to prison again till our further tryal, which was the next day, when sentence was passed on us as afterwards is mentioned.

The 18. day of the 3. moneth called *July*, we were all brought into the Court again, being placed among the Fel-

lent after a while Robert Smith was brought to the Bar.
Judge Robert Smith Will you answer to your indictment or no;
if not, you shall not be permitted to speak but I shall pass sentence upon you.
R. Smith was going to speak but interrupted

Judge. This is the Sentence and Judgment of the Court concerning
you: You are to be out of the Kings protection, and to forfeit your per-
sonal estate for ever to the King, and your real estate during term of
Life, &c.

Rob. Smith. The Lord gives, and if he permits to be taken a-
way, the will of the Lord be done.

On the 21 day of the same moneth the Sheriff seized on the
goods of Rob. Smith, and did take an account or Inventory there-
of, as much as to the Ladle, Flesh-fork, and Links, and a basket
which cost but three farthings.

And now for the trial of the rest, &c.

John Price, John Townsend, James Moor, Edw. Lewis, Susan Pier-
son being brought to the Bar the second time, two Witnesses
swore to the indictments, whose evidence was proved to be false,
for when the Judge said to us, we were taken such a day or time,
Susanna Pierston replied, saying, that was false, for we have been
in prison a moneth, which was near a fortnight before that time.
Then the Judge said we were brought before the Mayor; unto
which Susanna Pierston answered, it is utterly false; and said fur-
ther, he was not a competent Witness, who hath sworn as be-
fore said, and also because he had enmity in his heart against us.
Susan Pierston said, the Witness was utterly forsworn, and a per-
jured man; upon which the Judge said to Susan, Take heed what
you do, for he may bring his action against you; and so instead
of reproving the evil-doer, his hands were strengthened in bear-
ing false Witness. And also herein it doth further appear, that
the Witnesses were forsworn, because they swore that two of our
friends who were with us at the place where we were taken pri-
soners, were not there at that time, who were, and also commit-
ted to prison with us.

Su. Pierston. May I have liberty to speak.

Judge. Yes, if you will speak to the indictments.

Su. Pierston. Whereas it is said we went to our meetings by force
of arms, that is false, for we go innocently, and have had dirt
thrown

in our little going so; and coming from our dwelling;
without lifting up our hands against any Poll-tax or other
Judge; That is a form of Law; And it is used as a form; as thus
If that two or three men should assemble, or assemble, contrary to the
Laws of this Realm; and although they have power to draw upon such
persons, yet their so meeting together is by force of Arms; but as for
contrary to the Laws; and all they do by force of Arms; as by force
of Arms, expressed in all indictments; as in this to saw you a good

Now let it be considered how this form of Law can be good
and just, wherein things are expressed otherwise then it is; as to
say the People are met together by force of Arms; when the least
appearance of such a thing cannot be found amongst them.

We being taken away; *Edm. Bourn, Gen. Knight, Thos. Jakes,*
Rob. Tompkins, and *John Clark* was brought to the Bar the second
time; our indictments being read to us; and the Witnesses pro-
duced, which swore against us; *Edm. Bourn* spake as followeth.

Edm. Bourn. When we were taken prisoners, they came with
Swords and Guns without any warrant or order, contrary to
the Kings Proclamation, &c. but that was little regarded.

Then the Witnesses were called to swear to the indictments;
Edm. Bourn spake to the Judge.

Edm. Bourn. I desire liberty to ask a question?

Judge. No: But you may put what question you will to the Wit-
nesses.

Edm. Bourn. I not being permitted to speak what I desired to
the Judge, and perceiving one of the Witnesses had sworn falsely,
as to the time of our being taken prisoners; I enquired of him
when it was that we were met together?

Witness. It is in less time then a month.

Edm. Bourn. That is not so, for we had been five Weeks pris-
oners then; Afterward the prisoner took another Wit-
ness in a lye, and spake to him concerning what he did inform
the Judge; that it was false also; whereupon the Judge spake as
followeth:

Judge. If it be false you need not say so; that is unnecessary; but
you may say it is an untruth then.

Ed. Bourn. That which is a Lye, is a Lye, I hope in my heart
one may speak the thing as it is; I do not speak it in malice;
for

forbid us from charging any man with any crime, but the fear of the Lord; and as for malice, that is a deep, unchristian, and unchristianly way; for I am a Christian, and have learned of Christ to love my enemies, and to do good to them, that hate me, and to overcome evil with good. And further it was observed, that the Witnesses durst not swear that we were not together, as in presence of God, and in presence of God, because they heard nothing said or spoke amongst us; which the Judge and Jury was often minded of, for we were many times in company, and not permitted to speak.

One of us asked the Judge, whether it was not a point in Law to make void the indictment, when the Witnesses had sworn contrary to the same?

Judge. Yes, long as it was the same or other.

Gr. King. The witnesses have sworn that we were at Mr. Smiths between the hours of 11 and 12 of the clock, and I can prove by divers witnesses that I was in my Fathers business at that time, and many hours after.

Judge. Was you there that day?

Gr. King. That is not to the purpose whether I was there that day or not, &c.

Here the Jury may take notice that the Witnesses swore more out of enmity against us, then otherwise; they swore in carelessly.

Many questions were asked of us that we by answering might ensnare our selves; which we understand by the Laws of the Land the Judge ought not to have done, but rather to have advised and counselled us how to make our defence with safety to our selves. It was a saying of Judge Haub, that the Laws of England were merciful Laws; and that it was the Judges duty to be helpful and assistant to the prisoner, rather then to ensnare them.

R. Tompkins said; I was at my Fathers house that time when the Witnesses swore I was at Robert Smiths; as several witnesses.

Judge. Were you there that day?

R. T. I am not to accuse my self.

Judge. But did you have together for?

Many times when we are met together, we take care

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Alderman Selley offered to take his Oath: that the Oath was tendered as an Act of Grace.

E.B. Alderman Selley was not there when we were committed to prison. Let the Reader understand that that before mentioned hath relation to the prisoners then at the Bar.

Judge. I shall further enquire of the Judge who told you that he was with him on the Bench, in judgment upon the innocent.

E.B. I desire you to be careful, and do no otherwise with us then you may give a comfortable account to the Lord: and as you own your selves to be Christian Magistrates, deal with us as becomes Christians, for we are Christians our selves.

Judge. God forbid I should do otherwise with you; and lifted up his hands saying, If I do otherwise, it will be between me and the Lord.

E.B. I desire to ask one question in the fear of the Lord.

Judge. That you may in the fear of the Lord.

E.B. Suppose that if Christ and his Apostles were here at this time, and if they should meet together, would not this Law take hold of them?

Judge. Yes; that it would; but said afterwards, I will not answer your questions, unless you are not a pastor.

E.B. We are Christians, followers of Christ as they were; then interrupted.

Judge. I shall enquire of you what you say.

And as to what I then said, it is truth, for we know that the same Spirit which led them, leads us; even the Spirit of truth which leads unto all truth; and if it were not for the truths sake that we suffered, we were in a sad condition; and people may well believe, that if it were not to keep our peace with the Lord: we would not expose ourselves to such hardships and cruelty as we do meet withall from the world, because we refuse to swear, in obedience to Christs command, who saith, swear not at all; and because we dare not neglect to assemble our selves together in the name and fear of the Lord, in being that way by which we have found him, and have and do enjoy his holy presence amongst us, &c.

Then Richard Eade, Will Pitt, Edm Stanton, Abr Roberts, George Pierfon,

the Oath being read, the Witnesses sworn, and the

Judge spake, *Will you take the Oath of Allegiance?*

I did never deny Allegiance to the King by way of
conscience, nor will I use that Principle which did more oblige
me to the King than swearing can do.

Judge, *What is that Principle you speak of?*

It is the pure Principle of God, which leads me to do
all men as I would they should do unto me.

Judge, *That is a good Principle, it is the Fifth of Galatians*
opened.

Judge, *Will you take the Oath now?*

I have enough you any one that hath injured me of
any thing done by me against the King, that by law should be
punished? Or what is the ground of rendering it to me?

Judge, *It is in order to one of your Indisputable*
rights, which we are to maintain.

I am very well known, you have been a sufferer
many years, under the former Parliament, this
matter, so that if this had been the first Oath we had re-
solved to take, you might have had more ground to have suspec-
ted our Allegiance to the King and his Government.

I desire to hear the Witness that swear to the facts
mentioned.

Before the Witness be sworn, I desire to be informed
of the Court, lest through our ignorance of the law we should
injure our selves of our own proper right. The matter is this,
whether we may have liberty to exert against such men as
the Jury may be greatly prejudiced against us, and as non-
competent Judges in this matter.

Judge, *Before the Jury you say you might be injured*
if they were not present when the Jury was sworn.

We were not present when the Jury was sworn.

Wherefore it seems we are deprived of our just rights in this

matter.

I will give me leave to inform the Jury of the facts of
this case, and will then return to the Jury.

If what you have to say will not satisfy them, it is to
be referred to the Jury.

One of the Witnesses swore, that we were at a meeting

about

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how the number of 40, and that we refused to take the
of Allegiance or our Commitment.

The Judge asked another of the Witnesses what he could
say—Witness, I was there too, and I say as he said, Sir.
R. F. This Witness makes nothing against us: What visible
testimony have you against us tending to the Worship of God
Witness. None at all.

Judge. What were they doing?

Witness. Some sitting, and some standing.

R. F. Did you hear any one pray, or speak, or see any Book
opened amongst them?

Witness answered, No.

Judge. What have you to say for your selves? For what end were
you at that unlawful Assembly?

W. P. There are three or four fatherless Children amongst
us, vvhich we are to take care for, that they may not be charge-
able to Parishes for maintenance; such things are taken care
for amongst us when we meet together sometimes; and what
they were not met together at that time for that end, you
are to prove.

Judge. If you were met together for that end, is it unlawful, if
you are to go from that to this?

W. P. That which is charitable, is not unlawful.

Judge. I leave that to the Jury, whether they will take that as
an excused Plea, for a sufficient ground to excuse your being at that
lawful Assembly or not: Although the witness may prove that
the Jury believe you were met together under pretence of
worship, as they will manage being your conduct, whether they will
the Bill.

R. F. You of the Jury take notice that all that makes
nothing against us.

Judge. That is true, I may make it so, if you will.

R. F. But give me leave to inform them with the truth.
The Judge spoke of that purpose following, and would not
allow Rich. Fido to speak.

Grandjurors of the Jury, it is true, this witness makes nothing against
these men; yet I shall leave it to you, that if you do believe they did
anything under pretence of religious worship, you may find the Bill.

Many things more were mentioned between other Friends the Judge tending to the purpose before expressed, which are left out, so as were taken away, and not permitted to speak what we would, although the Judge spoke otherwise the day before, saying, we should have liberty to speak as much as we would when we came to our tryal; and said he would do us all the right he could; but let the Witness of God in every ones Conscience answer whether it were so or not.

The Jury being returned to give in their verdict, found the Bills against us; notwithstanding the evidence was made void in effect, as upon the examination of the Witnesses doth appear before-mentioned, upon our tryal.

Then John Price, John Townsend were called to the Bar, with Dr. Pierpont to receive the sentence; also Edw. Boyne, Geo. Knight and Robert Tompkins, Tho. Fakes and John Clark were called to the Bar the third time, and the Oath was tendered unto them before sentence was passed. Robert Tompkins desired to hear the Oath read, which was accordingly done.

Judge. Will you take the Oath?

Tompkins answered, No, it is not my principle to swear.

Edw. Boyne spake, What is truth in the Oath we can promise; and if we do not swear, it is in obedience to Christ's command; but if you can convince us by the Scriptures, that we may swear, and not offend the Lord, see what we will not do.

Judge. I will not talk with you according to the Scriptures; I know the Scriptures you will bring is that which saith, Swear not at all; but I deny your meanings.

Edw. We mean no otherwise but what Christ and his Apostles meant. — So the Judge would not be persuaded by us to take in hand to convince us according to the Scriptures; but proceeded to pass sentence upon us.

Judge. This is the sentence and judgment of the Court. You are fined 5*l*. a piece, and if you do not pay the fine, nor if there be no distress made in a Week's time, you are to be committed to the House of Correction, and to be put to hard labour for three months.

Edw. The Lord judge between you and us.

Judge. Take them away.

Then R. Fidoe, Wil. Pye, Ed. Stanton, Gervase Pierpont, Abra. Roberts, Abr. Armes, Fren. Harvey, Fran. Fincher, Isr. Rufmes, T. Ball,

and *John* were brought to the bar the third time.

G. P. I desire to know what great benefit the Kingdom
Declarations, the one from *Brady*, the other concerning *Scott*,
radical Affairs, were made void.

Judge. They are still the same.

G. P. We expected some benefit by them. Which Declara-
tions tended to the giving liberty to tender Conscience in
matters of Religion, though differing from others in opinion
therein, which do not disturb the peace of the Kingdom, which
we have not done.

G. P. For the King Words of no value.

Judge. Come, you are a *Samy* Companion.

Then the Judge proceeded to sentence, passing the same sen-
tence upon us as upon the other Friends aforementioned; up-
on which *William Pitt* spoke as follows.

W. P. Well, not only our God but our Father is with us
ling to offer up in this matter, but also our lives if it be required.

Then after our Trial, and sentence was pronounced us as before
is expressed, we were taken away to be brought to prison again be-
ing filled with peace & joy in the Lord, who for pure love hath
largely abounded to us with his blessing & praise & magnified
be his holy & glorious Name above every thing to come, Amen.

And thus such as are sober minded may see what happiness
we have received from some in Authority; only and also
for the exercise of a good Conscience as was of the Lord's doing
for any injury or wrong that we have done unto any man; the
just God can bear us witness herein; and that the Scriptures
made good, being fulfilled in us, which faith, *Whosoever will live
godly in Christ, they must suffer persecution*; And as there was a ge-
neration in the east which sought an occasion against *Daniel*,
but could find none except it was about the matter of his God;
for which cause they laboured with the King *Darius* until they
had obtained a Decree against him, Dan. 6. But remarkable in
the passage about the same for the Lord delivered *Daniel* but
his Enemies fell into the snare which they had laid for him.
And though it be so some are gone concerning us that a Decree
is sealed against us about the matter of our God, yet with the
fear, and dare not but hear his voice, and obey him in all his
commandments, by which we do and may suffer for this only

[illegible]

experience of the same, which was the ground of our oppression in the days of *Oliver Cromwel*, and of his Son *Richard Cromwel*, under whose Governments we were greatly oppressed, because we could not conform to them in matters about Religion; for whose cruelty and injustice the Lord hath overturned them & such as took part with them therein, and you do now possess their places, not that you should do as they did, but that you should answer the end of the Lord therein, in doing justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly before him, who is to be feared, and shall justly recompence all according to their doings; and now hath given you a day to try and prove you herein, whether you will do what he doth from you require, or not. Therefore mind what the Lord doth require at your hands, and answer him therein, that ye may be a blessing to the Nation wheresoever you come; for in this your welfare dependeth eternally.

From the Prison in Worcester
the 15. of the 5. mon. 1662.

From lovers of your souls, who
desireth the peace and welfare of
all mankind, who suffer bonds
with many more for righteousness
sake, called Quakers.

E. B. R. F. E. S. W. P. R. S. S. P. &c.

POSTSCRIPT.

WHat is before mentioned, is, as near as we could remember, the substance of the passages at our Tryal. Many things more might have been mentioned of what then passed, but we were willing to be as short as we could in publishing a Relation thereof, commending our selves with the Controversie between us and our Opposers, to be decided by God's Witness in every ones Conscience which shall read or hear the same.

Worcester Prison the 10th. day
of the 6th. Month 1662.

in this also. We are married to imprisonment to death to new
 friends, who are inhabitants of *Worcestershire*, and do not know
 how to live on the 10th and 11th.

Upon the 10th day of the 6th Month, 1662, came a party of
 Soldiers to the Town of *Perth*, where some of them were
 peaceably assembled in the fear of the Lord, and lay violent
 hands on them, drawing them forth from the meeting, and some
 out of their houses, and off from their own ground with their
 swords drawn, and forcing them along the streets, and forced
 them into an house, not allowing them any order for what they
 did, until they had been kept several hours in the house, where
 they were close detained prisoners; and their friends not per-
 mitted to come to them; and afterwards took them to *Worcester*,
 striking them, and giving some of them sore blows: Some mo-
 derate people seeing it, desired them to forbear striking them;
 then they fell a striking and cutting the people with their swords,
 and so brought them to the prison in *Worcester* without any Mis-
 tery.

Upon the 5. and 6. days of the 6th Month, *Ed. Hall*, *George Fort*, *Henry Gibbs*, with the rest of our friends who were taken
 prisoners with them at *Perth*, were brought before the Justice
 at the Sessions in *Worcester* to be tried with several other of
 our friends who were taken from their peaceable meeting
 being assembled in the fear of the Lord at *Quilly* in *Worcestershire*,
 at the same time as friends in *Perth* were taken; whose names
 are, *Richard Payton*, *John Newcomb*, *Thomas Denton*, and *Sutton Bagley*.
 All these before mentioned, were tried at the Sessions
 then holden, being made offenders about the oath of Allegiance,
 because they did not swear, the Jury finding them guilty, though
 in the sight of the Lord they are innocent from the breach of any
 just Law; sentence was passed upon them, as followeth.

Richard Payton being brought into a *Premunire*, his personal estate
 was forfeited to the King for ever, and his real estate during term of
 Life, and himself to be out of the Kings protection, and to remain in
 prison during the Kings pleasure, &c.

The rest of them, viz. *Ed. Hall*, *George Fort*, *Henry Gibbs*, *John Newcomb*, *Thomas Denton*, *Sutton Bagley*, *John Johnson*, *William Collins*, and *Ed. Gibbs*, were fined five pounds apiece, and for
 vwant

